Delivering the Wives of the Brahmanas #1
From Krsna Book Chapter 23

(Krsna and Balarama run onto stage merrily, followed by laughing cowherd boys. They all stop to rest, out of breath.)

1st Boy: Dear Krsna and Balarama, You are both all-powerful and can kill many demons but today we are much afflicted by hunger, and this is disturbing us. Please arrange for some nice foodstuffs that will mitigate our hunger.

Krsna: My dear friends, please go to the houses of the brahmanas nearby.
They are now engaged in performing Vedic sacrifices known as angirasa
because they desire elevation to the heavenly planets. All of you, please go
to them; but, let me warn you, these brahmanas are not Vaisnavas. They cannot
even chant Our names, Krsna and Balarama.

They are very busy chanting the Vedic hymns, although the purpose of Vedic knowledge is to find Me. But, because they are not attracted by the names of Krsna and Balarama, you had better not ask them for anything in My name. Rather, you should ask them for some nice foodstuffs in the name of My elder Brother, Balarama. They may not wish to give charity to Me as I am known as the son of Nanda Maharaj, a vaisya. They may prefer to give charity to a ksatriya, so as my Brother is known as the son of Vasudeva, a ksatriya, you should utter the name Balarama.
(The boys leave Krsna and Balarama and go to the other side of the stage and approach several brahmanas. The boys fold their hands and fall down on the ground to offer their respect.)

1st Boy: O gods on Earth, kindly hear us who are ordered by Lord Krsna and Balarama. We hope you know Them very well, and we wish you all good fortune. Krsna and Balarama are tending cows nearby, and we have accompanied Them. We have come to ask

some food from you. You are all brahmanas and knowers of religious principles and if you think that you should give us some charity, then give us some food and we shall all eat along with Krsna and Balarama. You are the most respectable brahmanas within the human society and you are expected to know all the principles of religious procedure.

> Lord Vishnu as Krsna and Balarama is standing waiting and you should immediately deliver whatever food you have in your stock. Generally, Vaisnava devotees of the lord do not take part in ordinary ritualistic ceremonies because they involve animal sacrifice and the offering of liquor. But now, as it is early in the ceremony would be an appropriate time to accept foodstuffs, so you may deliver it to us.

1st Brahmana: I do not understand why you think that you can just come to us
busy, elevated brahmanas, anytime you feel like it to beg some lunch.

2nd Brahmana: Yes, we don't appreciate your popping in on us like this and we don't know this Krsna and Balarama that you speak about.

1st Brahmana: So go away, all of you, we are not going to speak to you anymore.
(Very disappointed, the boys return to Krsna and Balarama and tell them what had happened.)

1st Boy: We went to the brahmanas as you said and very humbly, with folded hands, we asked them for foodstuffs in the names of Krsna and Balarama!

2nd Boy: Yes, and they said, " Go away right now! We don't know any Krsna and Balarama! We're not going to speak to you any longer!"

Krsna: You should not be sorry for being refused by the brahmanas because that is the way of begging. When one is

engaged in collecting or begging, one should not expect to be successful everywhere. You may be unsuccessful in some places but that should not be cause for disappointment. Go again to the ashrams of the brahmanas engaged in sacrifices but this time ask their wives for foodstuffs. These women are great devotees. They are always engaged in thinking of Me and My Brother, Balarama. Go there and ask for some food in My name and the name of Balarama, and I am sure that they will deliver to you as much food as you desire.
(The boys immediately go to the wives of the brahmanas, offering their respectful obeisances.)

1st Boy: Dear mothers, please accept our humble obeisances and hear our statement. May we inform you that Lord Krsna and Balarama are nearby. They have come here with the cows and you may know that we have come here under Their instructions. All of us are very hungry, therefore, we have come to you for some food. Please give us something to eat for Krsna and Balarama and ourselves.

1st Wife: Krsna and Balarama are hungry!? Oh, immediately we will bring all that we have!

2nd Wife: Come on, ladies, hurry! We are going to see Krsna and Balarama!

3rd Wife: They are so wonderful!

4th Wife: Krsna is very beautiful!

2nd Wife: And Balarama is very strong!

1st Wife: We have many nice, first class foodstuffs that have been prepared for the sacrifice; Krsna and Balarama will enjoy them!

1st Boy: He’s just over that hill there, waiting!

2nd Wife: We are so fortunate!

3rd Wife: Krsna is very kind to allow us to serve Him!

1st Brahman: Hey, where do you ladies think you're going!

2nd Wife: Krsna and Balarama are hungry! We must take these foodstuffs to Krsna and Balarama and Their friends!

3rd Brahman: Krsna and Balarama again! We told those cowherd boys
before that we had no time for charity today!

4th Brahman: Yes, today we are engaged in rituals and we need all the wives
to do their part in these rituals. Generally, the household brahmans sit with

their wives when they offer the various auspicious items into the fire in

order to ensure prosperity in this life elevation to the heavenly planets.

That is all we care about!

1st Wife: We don't care for prosperity or elevation to the heavenly planets! We are going to see Krsna and Balarama and their friends and that's that!!

2nd Wife: Krsna is our life and soul!!

1st Brahman: This is outrageous!!

2nd Brahman: I've never -!!
(The Cowherd Boys lead the wives of the brahmanas to Krsna and Balarama.)

Narrator: The brahmanas' wives saw Krsna putting on a garment glittering like gold. He wore a nice garland of forest flowers and a peacock feather on His head. He was also painted with the minerals found in Vrndavan and He looked exactly like a dancing actor on a theatrical stage. They saw Him keeping one hand on the shoulder of a friend and, in His other hand, He was holding a

lotus flower. His ears were decorated with lilies, He wore marks of tilak and He was smiling charmingly. With their very eyes, the wives of the brahmanas saw the Supreme Personality of Godhead, of Whom they had heard so much, Who was so dear to them, and in Whom their minds were always absorbed. Now they saw Him eye to eye and face to face and Krsna entered within their hearts through their eyes.

> They began to embrace Krsna to their heart's content and the distress of separation was mitigated immediately. They were just like great sages who, by their advancement of knowledge, merge into the existence of the Supreme.

As the Supersoul living in everyone's heart, Lord Krsna could understand their
minds; they had come to Him despite all the protests of their relatives, just to see Him Who was their life and soul.

Krsna: My dear wives of the brahmanas, you are all very fortunate and welcome here. Please let Me know what I can do for you. Your coming here, neglecting all the restrictions and hindrances of relatives, fathers, brothers and husbands, in order to see Me, is completely fitting. One who does this actually knows his self-interest, because rendering transcendental loving service unto Me, without motive or restrictions is actually auspicious for the living entities. You can now return to your homes. Engage yourself in sacrificial activities and be engaged in the service of your husbands and household affairs so that your husbands will be pleased with you and the sacrifice which they have begun will be properly executed. After all, your husbands are householders, and without your help how can they execute their prescribed duties?

2nd Wife: Dear Lord, this sort of instruction does not befit you. Your eternal promise is that You will always protect Your devotees, and now You must fulfill this promise. Anyone who comes and surrenders unto You never goes back to the conditioned life of material existence. We expect that You will now fulfill Your promise. We have surrendered unto Your lotus feet, which are covered by Tulasi leaves, so we have no more desire to return to the company of our so-called relatives, friends and society and

give up the shelter of Your lotus feet.

3rd Wife: And what shall we do, returning home? Our husbands, brothers, fathers, sons, mothers and our friends do not expect to see us because we have already left them all. Therefore, we have no shelter to return to. Please, therefore, do not ask us to return home, but arrange for our stay under Your lotus feet so that we can eternally live under Your protection.

Krsna: My dear wives, rest assured that your husbands will not neglect you on
your return, nor will your brothers, sons or fathers refuse to accept you.
Because you are My pure devotees, not only your relatives but also people in
general, as well as the demigods, will be satisfied with you.

> Transcendental love for Me does not depend upon bodily connection, but anyone whose mind is always absorbed in Me will surely, very soon, come to Me for My eternal association.

Narrator: After being instructed by the Supreme Personality of Godhead, all the wives again returned home to their respective husbands. Pleased to see their wives back home, the brahmanas executed the performances of sacrifices as it is enjoined in the sastras. One of the brahmanas wives, however, who was forcibly checked from going to see Krsna, began to remember Krsna as she heard of His bodily features and gave up her material body conditioned by the laws of nature.
Sri Govinda, the ever-joyful Personality of Godhead, revealed His transcendental pastimes, appearing just like an ordinary human being and enjoyed the food offered by the wives of the brahmanas. In this way, He attracted common persons to Krsna consciousness. He attracted to His words and beauty all the cows, cowherd boys and damsels in Vrndavan.

1st Wife: Now my life is complete! I have rendered personal service to Krsna,
the Supreme Personality of Godhead, His Brother Balarama and all of Their

friends!!

2nd Wife: The perfection of the eyes is to see Krsna and Balarama herding
Their cows in the forest of Vrndavana.

1st Brahman: We are the most unfortunate because although our wives are
elevated to the highest platform of self-realization by their pure devotional
service to the Supreme, we cannot understand even a little bit of how to love
and offer transcendental loving devotional service to the Supreme
Personality of Godhead!!

4th Brahman: To hell with our being born brahmanas!

2nd Brahman: To hell with our learning all Vedic literatures!!

3rd Brahman: To hell with our performing great sacrifices and observing all the rules and regulations!

4th Brahman: To hell with our family! To hell with our expert service in performing the rituals exactly to the description of the scriptures!

2nd Brahman: Yes, to hell with it all, for we have not developed transcendental loving service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, who is beyond the speculation of the mind, body and senses!!

3rd Brahman: We have been very foolish, because without developing Krsna Consciousness, all discharge of religious duties is a waste of time!

4th Brahman: The external energy of Krsna is so strong that it can create
illusion to overcome even the greatest mystic yogi. Although we

expert
brahmanas are considered to be teachers of all other sections of human
society, we also have been put into illusion by the external energy.

1st Brahman: Just see how fortunate these women are who have so devotedly dedicated their lives to the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Krsna. They could easily give up their family connection, which is so difficult to do.

2nd Brahman: Again we see that family life is just a dark well for the continuation of material miseries!

1st Brahman: According to the Vedic injunctions, women are not allowed to undergo the purificatory process of initiation by the sacred thread or live in the ashrama of the spiritual master. Nor are they advised to undergo the strict disciplinary. Nor are they very expert in discussing philosophy or self-realization. And by nature they are not very pure; nor are they very attached to auspicious activities.

2nd Brahman: But how wonderful it is that they have developed transcendental love for Krsna, the Lord of all mystic yogis!

3rd Brahman: They have surpassed all of us in firm faith and devotion unto Krsna. Being too attached to the materialistic way of life, although we are considered to be masters in all purifactory processes, we did not actually know what the goal is. Even though we were reminded of Krsna and Balarama the cowherd boys, we disregarded Them. We think now that it was simply a trick of mercy upon us by the Supreme Personality of Godhead that he sent His friends to beg foodstuffs from us. Otherwise, He had no need to send them. He could have satisfied their hunger then and there just by willing to do so!

1st Brahman: Because He has appeared as a child in the dynasty of the Yadus,
we were so foolish that we could not understand that He is the Supreme

Personality of Godhead. But, on the other hand, we are very proud because we
have such exalted wives who have developed pure transcendental service of the Lord without being shackled by our rigid position. Let us offer our respectful obeisances unto the lotus feet of Lord Krsna, under whose illusory energy, called maya, we are absorbed in fruitive activities. We therefore pray to the Lord to be kind enough to excuse because we are simply captivated by His external energy. We transgressed His order without knowing His transcendental glories!

4th Brahman: We should immediately throw aside what we are doing and run to see Krsna and Balarama in the forest, just as our wives have done!

1st Brahman: Gentle brahmanas, please! We cannot do that! If we go there, the evil King Kamsa may come to know of it and arrest us!

2nd Brahman: Yes, if King Kamsa restricts us any more than he does already, then we will not be able to obtain liberation through the performance of rituals and sacrifices.

1st Brahman: Yes, since this is for our own ultimate good and the good of
everyone, we must continue our duties while remembering Krsna and Balarama

within our minds!

Narrator: The brahmanas repented for their sinful activities. They wanted to
go personally to offer their obeisances to Him, but being afraid of Kamsa, they could not go. In other words, it is very difficult for one to surrender fully to the Supreme Personality of Godhead without being purified by devotional service. The example of the learned brahmanas and their wives is vivid. The wives of the brahmanas, because they were infused by pure devotional service, did not care for any kind of opposition. They immediately went to Krsna. But although the brahmanas had come to know

the supremacy of the Lord and were repenting, they were still afraid of Kamsa because they were too addicted to fruitive activities.

(Kirtan)